

Name _____



Where Do Termites Live?

Termites are small insects, but they have a big impact on their environment. These insects live in many parts of the world, adapting to different climates and habitats.

Natural Habitats

Termites are found on every continent except Antarctica. They thrive in warm, moist climates, making tropical rainforests their ideal home. These lush forests provide plenty of dead wood and plant material, which termites eat. However, termites also live in grasslands, savannas, and even deserts. They have special ways of surviving in dry areas by building mounds that help them store moisture.

Underground Colonies

One of the most common places to find termites is underground. Subterranean termites build large colonies below the surface. They create networks of tunnels to travel safely while searching for food. These underground homes also protect them from predators and extreme weather.

In Trees and Wood

Some termites prefer to live inside trees or wooden structures. Drywood termites make their homes in dead or decaying wood, while dampwood termites prefer moist wood. This can include fallen branches, tree stumps, or even buildings and furniture. Unfortunately, when termites move into houses, they can cause serious damage by eating the wooden parts of the structure.

Unique Mounds

In open areas like savannas, termites construct impressive mounds out of soil, saliva, and dung. These mounds can be several feet tall and are carefully designed to regulate temperature and airflow, keeping the colony comfortable. Some termite mounds even have natural ventilation systems!

The habitat of a termite affects its diet, behavior, and role in the ecosystem. For example, termites in rainforests help break down fallen trees, recycling nutrients into the soil. In dry areas, termite mounds create homes for other animals, like lizards and insects.

From underground tunnels to towering mounds, termites are amazing builders that adapt to their surroundings. They may be tiny, but their homes are some of the most impressive structures in the insect world.

